As obviously shown by comparing the results of Test Example 4 with those of Test Example 5, in Test Example 4 within the scope of the present invention, it takes about 8 sec to more for the mouth to the stomach, while it takes about 18 sec which is more than two times in Test Example 5, showing that the swallowing-assistive drink of the present invention gives an excellent swallowing-assistive effect.

As illustrated above, according to the present invention, by mixing specific adhesive pastes with water the swallowing-assistive drink for medicines that improves swallowing of various medicines, is convenient and substitutable with ordinary drinking water and does not disturb effectcacy of medicines and the method of swallowing can be provided.

Namely, patients who have difficulty in swallowing or who have a declined swallowing function, especially the aged patients can take medicines for internal use swallowing easily without having a sensation of foreign body by taking medicines orally together with the swallowing-assistive drink of the present invention.

Thus, the swallowing-assistive drink of the present invention improves the QOL (Quality of Life) of those who feel some pain when taking medicines and provides a help for their pleasant lives.

What is claimed is:

1. A swallowing-assistive drink for assisting an individual in swallowing a medication, the swallowing-assistive drink comprising:

water and an adhesive paste which form a viscous liquid having a viscosity in the range of from 1,000–25,000 cP at 20° C.; and

a medicine enwrapped in the viscous liquid.

2. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the adhesive paste is at least one selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch.

3. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the swallowing-assistive drink contains in the range of from 0.1–5.0 wt % adhesive paste and in the range of from 80.0–99.9 wt % water.

4. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

5. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the medicine is a mixture of solid formulations and at least one of granules and powder.

6. A swallowing-assistive drink for helping an individual swallow a medication, the swallowing-assistive drink comprising:

water and an adhesive paste which forms a gelatinoid having a jelly strength in the range of from 10–100 g/cm^2 at 20° C.; and

a medicine enwrapped in the gelatinoid.

7. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the adhesive paste is at least one selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch.

8. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the swallowing-assistive drink contains in the range of from 0.1–5.0 wt % adhesive paste and in the range of from 80.0–99.9 wt % water.

9. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

10. The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the medicine is a mixture of solid formulations and at least one of granules and powder.

11. A method for assisting an individual in taking a medicine by swallowing the medicine, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a swallowing-assistive drink containing water and an adhesive paste which forms a viscous liquid having a viscosity in the range of from 1,000–25,000 cP at 20° C.; and

(b) enwrapping the medicine in the viscous liquid.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein step (b) comprises enwrapping at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder in the viscous liquid.

13. A method for assisting an individual in taking a medicine by swallowing the medicine, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a swallowing-assistive drink containing water and an adhesive paste which forms a gelatinoid having a jelly strength in the range of from 10–100 g/cm^2 at 20° C.; and

(b) enwrapping the medicine in the gelatinoid.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) comprises enwrapping at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder in the gelatinoid.

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